

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 427
By Rhinehart

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. Robert Kirk Walker, Sr.

WHEREAS, it is important the elected representatives of this state should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robert Kirk Walker, Sr., is one such remarkable public servant, who has served the good people of Chattanooga and Tennessee with probity in various capacities for more than 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker played a leadership role in the campaign to consolidate the Chattanooga City Schools with Hamilton County Schools; and

WHEREAS, he has served as a member of UTC Chancellors Roundtable and Trustee of the UC Foundation and on the Executive Committee; he has been a member of the Tonyo Public Affairs Fund Advisory Committee at the University of the South since 1980; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Tennessee Law Revision Commission in 1970-71, Mr. Walker was the founding chairman for Leadership Chattanooga which, from 1983-96, graduated hundreds of leaders to enhance the general welfare of people and their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, he has been influential in matters of higher education, serving as chairman of the special four-year state college committee and as chairman of the educational task force from 1966-71; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Walker was a catalyst in bringing the University of Tennessee to Chattanooga and played an integral role in the merger of Chattanooga City College with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, he worked with the State Commissioner of Education to establish the much-needed Area Vocational Technical School at Chattanooga and tirelessly labored to obtain approval of a million-dollar expansion of facilities at Chattanooga State Technical Institute, before it became Chattanooga's first state community college; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker served in the United States Navy in World War II and the Korean War prior to his honorable discharge with the rank of lieutenant senior grade; and

WHEREAS, he served as mayor of Chattanooga from 1971-75 and during his productive term in office the city's population grew by more than 40% and expanded its geographical area by more than 113%; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Tennessee Law Revision Commission in 1970-71, Mr. Walker served as a Hearing Officer for the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee for eight years; and

WHEREAS, he served diligently as Special Counsel to the Attorney General of Tennessee for the Departments of Insurance and Banking and of Highways, as Chairman of the Fellows of the Chattanooga Bar Foundation, and became a Life Member of the U.S. Judicial Conference of the Sixth Circuit in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1948, and was elected to the Order of Coif at the University of Virginia; in 1955 he became a partner in the law firm of Strang, Fletcher, Carriger, Walker, Hodge and Smith; in 1962 he was elected by his fellow lawyers to serve as president of the Chattanooga Bar Association; and in 1965 was elected president of the Tennessee Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Robert Walker has received numerous awards over the course of his remarkable career, including the Kiwanis "Distinguished Service Award" in 1992; the Dorothy Patten "Love of Chattanooga" Award in 1991; the Sertoma International "Service to Mankind"

Award in 1969; the Boy Scout Silver Beaver Award in 1966; the Optimist "Man of the Year" Award in 1956; the Chattanooga Education Association "Citizens of the Year" Award in 1970; the Chattanooga State Technical Community College Award For Distinguished Contributions on the college's 30th anniversary in 1996; the Ralph H. Kelley Humanitarian Award, given by the Chattanooga Bar Association in 1994; and the Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association Award of Appreciation in 1989; and

WHEREAS, he has played an integral role on Capitol Hill as a lobbyist for the Tennessee Bar Association, the Credit Union League and its affiliate, Mutual Guarantee Volunteer Credit, the Farm Credit Council, Tennessee Public Power, and the Independent Schools Association, in addition to his overseeing legislation regarding the Uniform Commercial Code, environmental issues for manufacturers, and health services; and

WHEREAS, he is a devout member of First Baptist Church and of the Waters Class; and

WHEREAS, his numerous honors and accolades aside, Robert Walker is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his loving wife, Joy Holt Walker; their children, Dr. Kirk Walker, Jr., Marilyn Joy Walker Fisher; and James Holt Walker, and four grandchildren, Robert Kirk Walker III, Whitman C. Walker, Caroline McGuire Walker, and Sarah S. Fisher; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor this distinguished Tennessean, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor Mr. Robert Kirk Walker, Sr., on his many selfless contributions to the city of Chattanooga and the state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.